

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are currently amended. Claims 3, 4 and 8 are cancelled. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are independent. New claim 11 has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno et al. (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0093578A1) in view of Okamura (U.S. Patent 6,788,345), in further view of Miyawaki et al. (U.S. Patent 6,522,360). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kowno states in paragraph [0159]:

The second embodiment has the same structure as the first embodiment, which uses the touch tablet 6A and the same operations as the above operations to enlarge or reduce the displayed images, as well as changing the focal length of the shooting lens 3 at the time of shooting the objects (*emphasis added*).

Kowno also stated in paragraph [0183]:

As described above . . . if the zoom button 15 is operated in the same way as the first embodiment, the focal length of the shooting lens 3 can be changed, and, in response thereto, the size of the displayed image is changed at the time of shooting the image. . . . Then by using the touch tablet 6A, the focal length of the shooting lens 3 at the time of shooting the object can be changed and the size of the displayed image at the time of displaying the image can also be changed.

Further, Kowno states in paragraph [0185]:

[T]he present invention also is applicable to electronic cameras that have a single focusing lens with a fixed focal length and that rely on a digital zoom process . . . to change the magnification of the image of the object during shooting of the object by actuating a zoom button 15 or a touch tablet 6A.

In view of this statement and also from the context of the disclosure in the Kowno reference, the electronic cameras of Kowno having a single focusing lens only records the image of the object magnified by the digital zoom process.

In contrast, the image sensing apparatus of the claimed invention of the present application has an image sensing device that senses an image of a subject through a lens having a predetermined focal length, and the recording control unit records “a full image being sensed by the image sensing device without changing the predetermined focal length.” as recited in claim 1.

In other words, in the present invention, although the image sensing apparatus of the present invention includes “a designating unit,” “a zoom changeover unit,” and “an electronic zoom device,” the “recording control unit” still records image data that includes “a non-magnified full image being sensed by the image sensing device.” Such a feature is disclosed in page 11 lines 12-20 of the specification.

Okamura merely discloses an image sensing apparatus and a method of operating thereof including designating a zoom feature.

Miyawaki merely discloses an image sensing apparatus for sensing an image of the subject.

In view of this, even assuming that Kowno, Okamura, and Miyawaki can be combined, which Applicant does not admit, Kowno in view of Okamura, and in further view of Miyawaki fails to disclose or suggests the foregoing feature of the present invention.

Claims 5-7, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 2 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno in view of Okamura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 is allowable at least for the similar reasons as stated in the foregoing with regard to claim 1.

Claim 10, dependent on claim 9, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 9.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

New Claim

Claim 11, dependent on claim 2, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 2.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

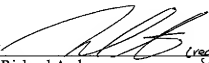
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Reg. No. 40,417, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 4, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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